

Summer Social Work Intern for Legal Services (ALL VIRTUAL)

Mission & Organization Overview

Based on the value of “welcoming the stranger, HIAS Pennsylvania provides legal, resettlement and supportive services to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers from all backgrounds in order to assure their fair treatment and full integration into American society. HIAS Pennsylvania advocates for just and inclusive public policies and practices.

Internship Description

Title: Social Work Intern for Legal Services

Program: Legal Services

Supervisor: Damaris Aguilar, Paralegal; Lucy Rabbaa, Director of Social Services

Hours: June 28 to August 31; 20-25 hours a week for 3 days a week

Pay: Unpaid but we can coordinate with for-credit professional/university program requirements

General Description:

The social work intern will assist legal teams with providing quality case management services to foreign nationals with a variety of immigration needs. These will include those seeking asylum, refugees, those seeking to bring family members to the United States, those in court deportation proceedings and those released from immigration detention with little or no means of support. Most foreign nationals are ineligible for all but a few public benefits and their ability to obtain work authorization in the United States is restricted. As a result, they are often in need of assistance with locating housing, medical care, and food resources.

Summary of Responsibilities

Responsibilities and tasks will be tailored to the individual’s strengths and interests, but might include:

- Research community resources available to asylum seekers in Philadelphia and the surrounding suburbs.
- Cultivate relationships with community leaders, religious groups, and other organizations with a view to providing social services to HIAS PA clients.
- Assess clients’ needs for housing, medical care, and food.
- Facilitate referrals to outside social service providers and organizations where appropriate.
- Develop a service plan to address as many of clients’ needs as possible, either directly, or through referral.
- In partnership with client and legal representative, create support plans for those seeking release from detention, to include details on housing upon release and resources available to those eligible to work.
- Provide case management support to those where this is required by agencies or partners providing services to foreign nationals.
- Work with attorneys, accredited representatives, and paralegals to identify and create a database of referral resources available in the Philadelphia and wider region.

Qualifications & Requirements

- Master’s in Social Work (MSW) degree, or currently enrolled in an MSW program
- Must be passionate about working with immigrants and asylum seekers
- Must be able to maintain confidentiality and work in a professional manner
- Must be able to maintain appropriate barriers with clients
- Ability to be organized
- Independent while also capable of working as part of a team
- Sensitive to the needs of low-income clients
- Fluency in Spanish or French a plus

HIAS Pennsylvania is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against any on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation or belief.

Qualified candidates should email a resume and cover letter by Tuesday, June 15, 2021 to Damaris Aguilar at daguilar@hiaspa.org and Lucy Rabbaa at lrabbaa@hiaspa.org with the subject line 'Summer Social Work Intern.'